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22852 7590 01/17/2007 FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER WEINTROP, ADAM S	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/649,377

Applicant(s)

BERINGER, JOERG

Examiner

Adam S. Weintrop

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____                                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/27/03</u>   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                           |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 13, in section 0039, line 2, the word "windo" is a typographical error and should be replaced with --window--.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Objections*

2. **Claims 1-35** are objected to because of the following informalities:

**For claim 1**, on line 3, the phrase "an enterprise" needs to be replaced with --said enterprise-- to establish proper antecedent basis. On line 5, the phrase "collaborative conversation channel" needs to be replaced with --one of the collaborative conversation channels--. On line 6, the phrase "collaborative conversation channels" needs to be replaced with --said collaborative conversation channels--. On line 7, the phrase "each collaborative conversation channel" needs to be replaced with --each one of the collaborative conversation channels--. On line 10, the phrase "selected collaborative conversation channel" should be replaced with --selected one of the collaborative conversation channels--.

**For claim 2**, in lines 2 and 4, the term "particular" should be replaced with --specific-- to establish proper antecedent basis. In line 3, the phrase "the collaborative conversation channel" should be replaced with --one of the collaborative conversation channels--.

**For claim 3**, on line 2, the word “and” should be –or--.

**For claim 5**, on line 1, the term “the group” should be –a group--.

**For claim 7**, on lines 1-2 and 2-3, the phrase “a collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –one of the collaborative conversation channels--.

**For claim 8**, on lines 1-2, the phrase “a collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –one of the collaborative conversation channels--.

**For claim 9**, on line 1, the phrase “messages” should be replaced with –said message—to establish proper antecedent basis.

**For claim 10**, on line 2, the phrase “messages” should be replaced with –said message--. Also, the phrase “a collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –one of the collaborative conversation channels--. In lines 3, 4, and 5, the phrase “the collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –one of the collaborative conversation channels--.

**For claim 12**, in lines 2-3, and 4-5, all phrases consisting of “a collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –one of the collaborative conversation channels--.

**For claim 13**, on line 3, the phrase “the collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –one of the collaborative conversation channels--.

**For claim 14**, on line 8, the term “users” should be replaced with –the users— and on line 9, the term “members” should be replaced with –the members--.

**For claim 18**, on line 2, the phrase “a collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –said collaborative conversation channel--.

**For claim 22**, on line 2, the term “a message type” should be replaced with –the message type--.

**For claim 25**, on line 4, the phrase “each collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –each one of the collaborative conversation channels—.

**For claim 29**, on line 3, the term “an enterprise” should be replaced with –the enterprise--. On lines 5 and 6, the phrase “each collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –each one of the collaborative conversation channels—.

**For claim 30**, on line 2, the term “member” should be replaced with –the member--.

**For claim 31**, on line 2, the term “member” should be replaced with –the member--.

**For claim 32**, on line 2, the term “member” should be replaced with –the member--.

**For claim 33**, on line 2, the term “member” should be replaced with –the member--. On line 3, the phrase “the collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –one of the collaborative conversation channels—.

**For claim 34**, on line 1, the phrase “the collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –one of the collaborative conversation channels—.

**For claim 35**, on line 1, the term “a member” should be replaced with –said members--. On line 2, the term “a set of message types” should be replaced with –said set of message types--. On line 3, the phrase “the collaborative conversation channel” should be replaced with –one of the collaborative conversation channels—.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. **Claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 32, 33, and 35** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

**For claim 3**, the term “community” in line 1 is vague as to what community of claim 1 it refers to, either the “communities” of line 3 or the “specific community” of line 5.

**For claim 4**, the phrase “at least one generic channel type” of line 2 is indefinite because it is unclear as to what applicant is referring to by “at least one generic channel type”.

**For claim 7**, in line 2, the term “community” is vague as to what community of claim 1 it refers to, either the “communities” of line 3 or the “specific community” of line 5.

**For claim 10**, in lines 3 and 5, the term “community” is vague as to what community of claim 1 it refers to, either the “communities” of line 3 or the “specific community” of line 5.

**For claim 12**, in lines 2 and 4, the term “community” is vague as to what community of claim 1 it refers to, either the “communities” of line 3 or the “specific community” of line 5.

**For claim 13**, in lines 2 and 3, the term “community” is vague as to what community of claim 1 it refers to, either the “communities” of line 3 or the “specific community” of line 5.

**For claim 32**, in line 2, the term “community” is vague as to what community of claim 29 it refers to, either the “communities” of line 3 or the “specific community” of line 5.

**For claim 33**, in lines 2 and 3, the term “community” is vague as to what community of claim 29 it refers to, either the “communities” of line 3 or the “specific community” of line 5.

**For claim 35**, in lines 3 and 4, the term “community” is vague as to what community of claim 29 it refers to, either the “communities” of line 3 or the “specific community” of line 5.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. **Claims 1-13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

**For claim 1**, it describes a method of defining communities, associating channels with the community, providing access to a community, and receiving and sending messages through a channel. In order for a method claim to be statutory, it must result in a useful, concrete, and tangible result. In this instance, there is no result of the method claimed, as receiving and sending messages has no real world output. **Claims 2-13** do not add any tangible output and are rejected for the same reason.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. **Claims 1-2, 6, 8-9, 14-17, 19-22, 25-26, and 29** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fernandes (US 6,014,135).

**For claims 1 and 2**, the applicant calls for a method for communications, with the steps of defining communities within an enterprise, associating collaborative conversation channels with the communities wherein each collaborative conversation channel is associated with a specific community, providing access to a collaborative conversation channel through a user interface and each channel having a set of message types, receiving a request to send a message with a message type within a



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collaborative communication channel, and sending the message through the channel.

In claim 2, the applicant further adds the steps of identifying members of a community, and providing access to the channel that corresponds to that community. Fernandes anticipates applicant's method first by defining communities in an enterprise and identifying members of the community as required by claim 2. This is disclosed in column 14, lines 57-59, where a community consists of people on the network with a similar set of criteria. This definition implies that a community that is created would be defined and its members identified for their matching criteria. For associating conversation channels with the communities, Fernandes discloses this in column 14, lines 50-53, with the description of a user's preferences and how they are media enabled. With the community builder of lines 57-59 using the self agent of lines 50-53, the community is built on user's preferences, therefore a community is defined with user's preferences being the controlling factor, and they would inherently communicate through a specific conversation channel or topic as seen in Figure 7, with each subject a different conversation channel, with conversation channels being equivalent to a threaded message. For providing access to collaborative conversation channels through a user interface with each channel having message types, and providing identified members of a community with access to a specific conversation channel as required by claim 2, Fernandes discloses this in column 12, lines 13-24, where a user can browse modifications to a shared file, which is equivalent to a conversation topic or channel. This channel can inherently correspond to a specific community using the community builder previously discussed. The associated set of message types and

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receiving a request to send a message with a certain message type for each conversation topic or channel is disclosed in column 11, lines 11-27, where a user (or inherently a group of user's as described above with the community builder) can send and receive certain types of messages or documents. For sending a message with a certain message type through a channel, Fernandes discloses this in column 11, lines 35-44, where a user can send the document to any user or a group of user's according to column 12, lines 57-67.

**For claim 6**, Fernandes discloses the limitation of having a set of message types that include predefined templates. In column 10, lines 56-65, he describes how when a user wants to compose a message, they can choose predefined message types such as a word processing document or a spreadsheet. This is equivalent to using predefined message type templates.

**For claim 8**, Fernandes discloses that a user sets their user preferences to include network identity and what media the user can accept in column 14, lines 50-54. This user profile allows the user to perform task in the conversation channels because the user profile includes network identity. The network identity inherently grants them implicit subscription to a conversation channel because the user's need the network identity to identify themselves in the channel as described in column 10, lines 10-14, where users are represented by an icon in the community.

**For claims 9 and 20**, Fernandes discloses the limitation of filtering messages received, as required by claim 9, and sent, as required by claim 20, based on message type through a conversation channel in column 14, lines 9-13 and in column 11, lines

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22-27. Fernandes describes that all incoming media can be converted based on message type and the type of messaging that the user prefers to receive. He also describes that only message types that a user can receive are shown to the sending user when composing a message. These actions are equivalent to filtering messages based on message type, since the conversion process identifies incoming messages and types users can receive and knows what types to convert and what types to let through to the user without converting.

**For claims 14, 15, and 19**, the claim requires a system for collaboration in an enterprise, consisting of a portal that is accessible from client devices, a plurality of enterprise based systems, and those having applications for facilitating communications as required by claim 15, a collaborative conversation channel application that provides community members access to message templates for collaborative conversation channels and a user interface as required by claim 19, and the community relating to a particular topic, with the message templates allowing users to select and send messages with the message type to the members of the community. Fernandes discloses a portal that is accessible from client devices in column 10, lines 10-47, where he describes the user's screen for accessing the community. The plurality of enterprise systems with applications for facilitating communications is inherent in Fernandes' system. In column 10, lines 10-28, he describes that user's of the system can view other user's published documents, therefore requiring the same system on another user's computer. This suggests there is a plurality of enterprise-based systems with applications for facilitating communications. The collaborative conversation channel

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application that provides user's access to message templates is found in column 10, lines 50-65, where Fernandes discloses that multiple message templates are available to the user, and the users can be a part of a community as disclosed in column 14, lines 57-59. The application has a user interface as required by claim 19 in column 10, lines 10-47 where the user can interact with the application by viewing other users and sending and receiving messages. The selecting and sending of messages with the selected message type is disclosed in column 11, lines 35-44, where Fernandes describes that after a document has been created, the user can send it to any community member.

**For claim 16**, the claim requires a message server for sending messages. In Fernandes' system, a message server is inherent in the routing of messages. In column 11, lines 35-44, he describes sending messages to other users, and in lines 45-63, setting delivery options for the message. A message server is equivalent to an application that can deliver messages to users on a network. Fernandes' routing system provides for this requirement.

**For claim 17**, the claim requires the conversation channel application to be able to list the available channels. Fernandes discloses this in his "Universal Inbox" of column 13, lines 66-67, and column 14, line 1. The inbox can list all available conversations channels, or messages, that were sent to the users of a community.

**For claim 21**, the claim requires that the messages received through a conversation channel be placed in a message center in the portal. Fernandes discloses this in his "Universal Inbox" of column 13, lines 66-67, and column 14, line 1. The inbox

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can list all available conversations channels, or messages, that were sent to the user of a community, and this inbox is part of the application or portal the conversation channel operates in as seen in Figure 7, where the inbox is part of the entire application.

**For claim 22**, the claim requires the message center have icons that indicate message type. Fernandes discloses this in Figure 7, where the Medium column shows icons related to what type of medium a document or message is.

**For claims 25 and 26**, the claim includes the limitations of having operations to provide access to a collaborative conversation channel through a user interface, with the channel associated with a specific community and having a set of message types, receiving through the user interface a request to access a template for a message type and presenting the template to the user. The operations also provide for receiving user input for creating of the messages of the message type and providing the message to the community associated with the channel as required by claim 26. Fernandes discloses the operations for providing access to a conversation channel through a user interface with each channel being associated with a community in column 10, lines 10-47, where the user interface is described. The channel can be associated with a specific community as disclosed in column 14, lines 57-59. The user has access to a set of message types available to the conversation channel as disclosed in column 10, lines 50-65, where Fernandes discloses multiple message templates that are available to the user. The user interface receives request to access the templates and receives user input for creating the messages in column 10, lines 50-65, where he describes the user accessing a document template type and composing the document. The providing

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of the message to the community is disclosed in column 11, lines 35-44, where Fernandes discloses that after a document has been created, the user can send it to any community member.

**For claim 29**, the claim includes the method of defining communities within an enterprise, associating collaborative conversation channels with the communities, assigning a set of message types to each conversation channel, receiving a user selection of a message type and receiving user input for the content of the message, and sending the message to members of the community through the conversation channel. Fernandes discloses defining communities within an enterprise in column 14, lines 57-59, where a community consists of people on the network with a similar set of criteria. This definition implies that a community that is created would be defined and its members identified for their matching criteria. For associating conversation channels with the communities, Fernandes discloses this in column 14, lines 50-53, with the description of a user's preferences and how they are media enabled. With the community builder of lines 57-59 using the self agent of lines 50-53, the community is built on user's preferences, therefore a community is defined with user's preferences being the controlling factor, and they would inherently communicate through a specific conversation channel or topic. By using the user's preferences as to how they are media enabled, and then having users collaborate on a certain conversation channel, Fernandes inherently assigns message types to each conversation channel by having the users being able to post and view messages with the message type based on their user preference as described in column 11, lines 45-47. The user has access to a set

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of message types available to the conversation channel as disclosed in column 10, lines 50-65, where Fernandes discloses multiple message templates are available to the user. The user interface receives request to access the templates and receives user input for creating the messages in column 10, lines 50-65, where he describes the user accessing a document template type and composing the document. The providing of the message to the community is disclosed in column 11, lines 35-44, where Fernandes discloses that after a document has been created, the user can send it to any community member.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. **Claim 3** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fernandes (US 6,014,135) in view of Ben-Natan et al. (US 2003/0158897 A1).

**For claim 3**, Fernandes discloses all of claim 3 as described above except for using a community with members that have a common fortune or a common interest. The general concept of associating groups of people by their common fortune or interest is well known in the art as illustrated by Ben-Natan. Ben-Natan discloses several ways to associate people in a community and an example of a group with a common grouping is shown in page 7, section 0093, lines 1-10, where members of a

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group are categorized by the type of job they must perform, or a common interest or fortune. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Fernandes to include the groupings by common fortune and interest as taught by Ben-Natan in order to create communities that have a bond and a desire to collaborate on shared ideas to ensure the collaboration is productive.

11. **Claims 4-5, 7, 13, 18, and 23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fernandes (US 6,014,135) in view of MacNaughton et al. (US 6,020,884).

**For claims 4 and 5**, Fernandes discloses all of the limitations of claims 4 and 5 as described above except for using a generic channel type as required by claim 4 and using either an operational channel, a strategic channel, or an educational channel type as required by claim 5. The general concept of using these channel types in a collaboration system is well known in the art as illustrated by MacNaughton.

MacNaughton discloses a collaborative conversation system where the user can view multiple different topics or threads. In column 7, lines 41-55, he specifies a "Create or View Messages" area for user's to interact with. This is equivalent to a generic channel type being that this can include most everything the user would want to view or post messages about as required by claim 4. For claim 5, the "Create or View Messages" area is equivalent to an operational channel type being that it can include messages that are about the specific community as noted in line 46. The strategic channel is equivalent to the "Notices" area of line 51, since it includes personal messages like the strategic channel requires, and the educational channel is like the "Help" area in line 50



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since it would include information about training as required by claim 5. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Fernandes to include the use of generic channel types including operational, strategic, and educational as taught by MacNaughton in order to create topic and routing specific groupings of channels so the information can be categorized and enhance the user's experience.

**For claim 7**, Fernandes discloses all of the limitations as described above except for gaining access to a communication channel based on being a member of the community that is associated with the communication channel. The general concept of providing allowing users access to a communication channel based on membership of a community in a system of collaboration is well known in the art as illustrated by MacNaughton. In column 8, lines 60-62, MacNaughton writes that a user, upon determining that he is a member from the membership profile, will be given access to a community (in this case, a communication channel, or community capabilities as described in column 7, lines 36-55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Fernandes to include the step of giving access to a channel to members of a community as taught by MacNaughton in order to provide the content of the invention to community members without having the members choose the communication channel explicitly.

**For claim 13**, Fernandes discloses all of the limitations as described above except for providing a community place where collaborative components are located for each community. The general concept of using a community place is well known in the

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art as illustrated by MacNaughton in column 7, lines 37-55, where his "Community Centre" is the common area for all of the other collaboration tools, such as the "Create or View Comments" section. Each community has a separate "Community Centre". It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Fernandes to include the community center place in a collaboration environment as taught by MacNaughton in order to provide a central place where the community members can begin their collaboration sessions to heighten the user's experience and create a common collaboration area.

**For claim 18**, Fernandes discloses all of the limitations as described above except for having the ability to search for a conversation channel. The channel is similar to a message thread. The general concept of searching for conversation channels or threaded messages is well known in the art as illustrated by MacNaughton as described in column 8, lines 64-67, where he describes that a user of a community can search the community's comments on a particular topic. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Fernandes with the searching ability of MacNaughton in order to speed the user's interaction by letting the user access the information desired more quickly.

**For claim 23**, Fernandes discloses all of the limitations as described above except for the requirement that the message center display has a community identification displaying what community the user is currently collaborating in. The general concept of displaying community information in a collaborative environment is well known in the art as illustrated by MacNaughton in column 24, lines 4-8.

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MacNaughton describes the community viewer, which includes community information as well as the community content. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Fernandes with the display of community information as taught by MacNaughton in order to provide the user with detailed information of the community which he or she is currently collaborating for enhancing the user experience.

12. **Claims 10-12, 24, 27-28, and 30-35** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fernandes (US 6,014,135) in view of Lang et al. (US 6,029,161).

**For claims 10-11, 24, 27-28, and 30-34**, Fernandes discloses all of the limitations as described above except for providing filters for sending and receiving the messages based on community type, channel type, or community role of the sending member, or using pre-configured or automatic filters for community or community-role as required by claim 11, or channel type as required by claim 33, with the channels either being operational or strategic as required by claim 34. The general concept of applying these filtering techniques is well known in the art as illustrated by Lang. Lang discloses a complex filtering scheme for large-scale information that includes community and content filtering techniques. Lang discloses filtering based on community type and channel type in column 4, lines 15-54. Filtering based on community type and channel type is equivalent to filtering based on the broad community relationships and can be accomplished with a "collaborative" filter of line 20 in which interests and relevancy is what is necessary to filter information for large

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groups of people collaborating. Their interests are what define the community and the information relevant to the users is what defines a channel type. The channel type can be either operational or strategic, as these are merely topic restrictions that can be filtered with a "collaborative" filter as this filter uses the relevancy of the message to the user to filter. For filtering on the community role of a member, Lang discloses credibility filtering on line 55 which enables users to view and provide feedback on a member's credibility, and users can reach "expert" status as described in lines 18-29 in column 5. This ranking is equivalent to a role a member plays in the community. In column 7, lines 1-17, Lang discloses using the filters to select an informon (entries from a user) that is predicted to fit the user's profile. This is equivalent to setting the filters to be pre-configured or automatic, as they would provide a set filtering scheme to provide the user with information before the filters are set by the user as required by claims 11 and 33. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Fernandes to include the use of the complex filtering schemes as taught by Lang in order to have the users of a community view information appropriate to them to increase the organization of the collaborative conversation channels.

**For claims 12 and 35,** Fernandes discloses all of the limitations, including using a message type for an associated conversation channel. He does not disclose using a predefined set of message types based on community type, channel type, or community role of a member. The general concept of using a predefined set of message types for these instances is well known in the art as illustrated by Lang. As described above, Lang uses filtering techniques so the user can sort out and send messages with regards

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to community type, channel type, or user role. The filtering provides a more defined interface between the user and the conversation channel. If the user can filter received and sent messages with regards to those categories, and the user can post messages with regards to what message type a user can receive as described in Fernandes, then it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Fernandes with Lang and use the filtering technique in a way that so that a user will be provided message types for messages based on the filtering criteria and not just receive and send messages based on the specific criteria. This combination would be in place in order to include message creation as a part of the filtering technique so the user can easily create a message based on where the message will be placed. This increases the ease of use of the collaboration channel.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam S. Weintrop whose telephone number is 571-270-1604. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frantz Jules can be reached on 571-272-6681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

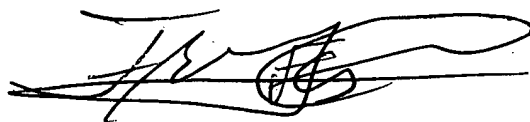
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AW

12/28/2006

FRANTZ JULES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frantz Jules', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'F' and a circular flourish at the end.